as per provisions of Juvenile Justice Act, 1986, in force since 2-10-1987, no Juvenile is to be kept in jail. They are kept in Juvenile Homes' set up by the State Governments. These Homes not only provide education, vocational training and rehabilitation but also facilities for the development of their character and abilities.

Counter trade deals by MMTC

3526. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Minerales and Metals Trading Corporation is losing its clout in the international market to clinch counter trade deals; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and what steps have been taken by Government to generate more exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) and (b) Due to streng'hening of global commodity markets, MMTC has found it difficult in the recent past to develop counter trade exports.

It has, however, made efforts and succeeded in obtaining counter trade obligations against a number of import items like sulphur, muriate of potash, rock phosphate, steel, etc. It is trying to promote exports of canalised and non-canalised items by extensive marketing efforts.

Concern expressed by the environmental experts on setting up of fertilizer plant near Sawaimadhopur

3527. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the fertilizer plant proposed to be set up near Sawaimadhopur in Rajasthan will contaminate the water of the Banas river,

(b) whether the high-level Central Committee of Environmental experts expressed concern over this aspect; and

(c) if so, what action Government have taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) and (b) Having regard to the volume of liquid effluents likely to be discharged from a fertiliser plant of this magnitude and the quantum of water flows in the Banas river, the Committee appointed by the Ministry of Environment & Forests has expressed concern on the likely adverse effect on the environment, should the fertiliser plant be located in this area.

(c) The suitability, from environmental angle, of the various alternative sites suggested for this project in Rajasthan are still under examination.

Modernisation of Textile Industry

3528. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the modernisation of the textile industry has suffered due to the high cost; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Governemnt to bring down the modernisation costs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES: (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) While modernisation may be costly in a few areas of the textile industry, it does not appear that its cost is high as a whole, judging from the industry's response to the Textile Modernisation Fund Scheme.

(b) The excise duty has been reduced on certain items of textile machinery reuired for modernisation in the 1988-89 Budget, the export obligation scheme for the import of certain, items of sophisticated machinery at concessional rates of duty has been continued etc.